



LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR,

THE

YEAR

1949.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

William Hogg, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

CLERICAL STAFF:-

Miss L.R. Plascott. (resigned May 30th, 1949)

Miss M.W. Burns. (appointed June 1st, 1949)

Telephone:-

Ross-on-Wye 214.

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR:-

Mr. E.E. Jordan, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ASSISTANT TO THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR:-

Mr. E.G. Watkins.

Telephone:- Ledbury 130.

Council Offices,
Southend,
Ledbury.

Ledbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year, 1949, which is submitted under Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and in accordance with Circular 2/50 of the Ministry of Health. The Report does not contain any special item inserted on particular instructions of the Council, but deals generally with matters having a bearing upon the health of the inhabitants.

The incidence of infection was very low, and seems to have reverted to the low incidence before 1940.

The District was free from the more serious infectious diseases, apart from infantile paralysis - a disease which in the past has seldom occurred. The birth rate was maintained and the death rate was low.

Throughout the year, the work of the Department was facilitated by the co-operation which was received from the medical practitioners within the area, and I much appreciate this help.

In addition, I wish to acknowledge assistance given me not only in the preparation of this report but throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr. Dykes. (Clerk to the Council) Mr. A.T. Thomas (Financial Officer) and Mr. E.E. Jordan (Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.)

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

William Legg
Area Medical Officer of Health.

22nd August, 1950.

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:-

Area In Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,867
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1949)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,375
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£32,820
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£132,0.0.
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,967

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:-

Live Births Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.	20.0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	11.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)	11.3
Area Comparability Factor	0.90
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.	10.2

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Total Births.</u>
Heading No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis.	-	-
Heading No. 30. Other Maternal Causes.	-	-

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:-

All Infants per 1,000 total Live Births	38.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	37.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	52.6

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern part of the County of Hereford and can be regarded as roughly a valley running in a north west-south east direction with the Malvern Hills on the eastern border and the Marcle Hills on the west.

Population:-

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year resident population is

8,987 but during the month of September, there is a large influx of population for the hop-picking. It is probable that the population is temporarily increased by 80% for a period of from four to six weeks depending on the crop. It is estimated that half of this increase is due to children under 14 years of age. The estimated population for 1949 is slightly ^{LOWER} ~~higher~~ than that for 1948 - 1953.

The estimated average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.78, the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.048 and the estimated average number of persons per acre is 0.180. The natural increase of the population i.e. the excess of live births over deaths for the year was 78, an increase upon the figure for the previous year (67)

Births:-

The total number of live births for the year is 180 (97 males and 83 females) which represents an increase of 14 on the previous year. The live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 20.0 whilst the corresponding figure for the previous year is 18.4. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year, 1949 is 16.7 per 1,000 population.

The number of illegitimate live births is 19 (10 males and 9 females). This being greater than the number for the year 1948, which was 15. Illegitimate live births formed 10.6% of all live births.

Stillbirths:-

The number of stillbirths registered is, **2**, which is double the number for the previous year. The stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births calculates out at 11.0 per 1,000 total births, or 0.22 per 1,000 population. The latter figure compares with a stillbirth rate for 1949 of 0.39 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

Deaths:-

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the

Rural District is 102, (50 males and 52 females) after deduction of deaths of non-residents and the addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District, this gives a crude death rate of 11.3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

Using the comparability factor for the area of 0.9, the adjusted death rate is 10.2 per 1,000 population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 11.7 per 1,000

Heart disease accounted for 29 deaths (16 males and 13 females) and was the commonest single cause of death. In the previous year, 24 deaths, (10 male and 14 female) were attributed to this cause. The local death rate from this cause is **3.26** per 1,000 population.

Apoplexy was the next commonest cause of death; there were 14 deaths from this cause. Taking headings 18, 19 and 20 together - embracing disease of the circulatory system, we find 53 deaths which is just over one half of the total number of all deaths.

Cancer of all sites produced this year, only 10 deaths (6 males and 4 females) whereas in 1948, 24 deaths were caused by Cancer. The death rate from this disease for the Rural District for 1949 is 1.11 per 1,000 population.

On the following page is given a table of causes of death according to sex.

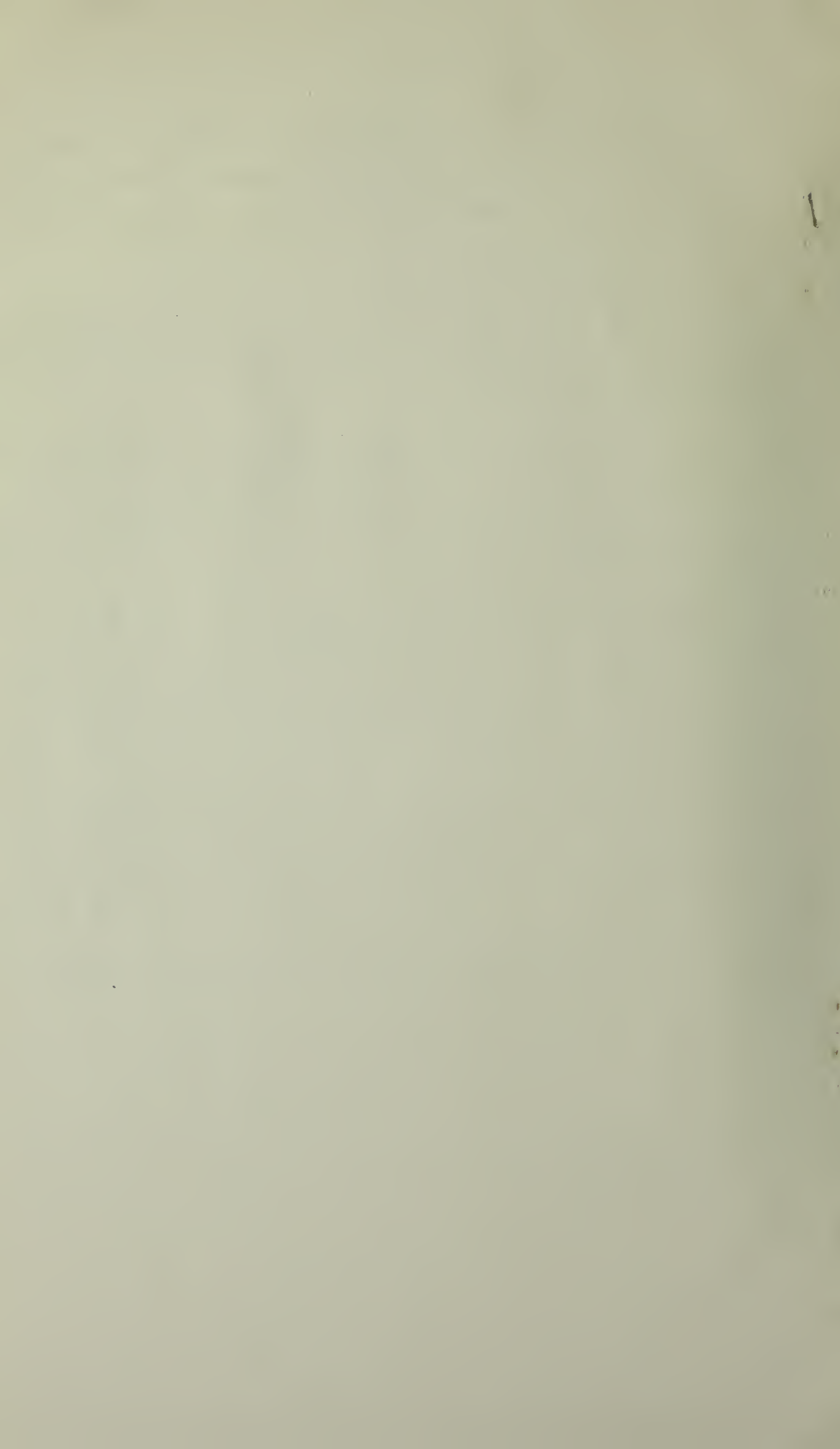


Table of Causes of Death According to Sex.

Heading No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.	Persons.	Rate per 1,000
6.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	-	2	2	0.22
9.	Influenza.	3	3	6	0.67
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males) cancer of Uterus (females.)	1	-	1	0.11
14.	Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum.	4	3	7	0.78
16.	Cancer of all other Sites.	1	1	2	0.22
17.	Diabetes.	-	1	1	0.11
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	4	11	15	1.67
19.	Heart Diseases.	16	13	29	3.26
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System.	6	4	10	1.11
21.	Bronchitis.	1	3	4	0.44
22.	Pneumonia.	1	3	4	0.44
23.	Other Reppiratory Diseases.	1	1	1	0.11
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	1	1	0.11
27.	Other Digestive Diseases.	-	1	1	0.11
31.	Premature Birth.	3	-	3	0.33
32.	Congenital Malformations, birth injury, infantile diseases.	1	1	2	0.22
34.	Road Traffic Accident.	1	-	1	0.11
35.	Other Violent Causes.	1	1	2	0.22
36.	All Other Causes.	7	3	10	1.11
All Causes.		50	52	102	11.3

Infant Mortality:-

There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age (5 males and 2 females) this gives an infant mortality rate of 37.8 per 1000 live births. This is somewhat higher than the same rate for England and Wales, which is 32 per 1,000. For the year 1948 the infant mortality was 9 which gave a rate of 54.0 per 1,000 live births.

Puerperal Deaths:-

There were no puerperal deaths recorded which is very satisfactory. The same absence of deaths from puerperal or other maternal causes was achieved in 1948.

Cancer Deaths:-

There were 10 deaths due to this cause (6 males and 4 females).

Deaths of Infants under 2 years of age due to Diarrhoea:-

No death was recorded as due to diarrhoea in a child under 2 years of age. In the previous year there was no death under this heading also.

Deaths From Infectious Disease:-

Influenza was given as the cause of death of three males and three females. The local death rate from this cause is 0.67 per 1,000 population, a rate considerably in excess of the England and Wales Rate from this cause of 0.15 per 1,000 population.

Pneumonia gave rise to four deaths (1 male and three females) giving a rate of 0.44 per 1,000 population which is well below the national rate for the year of 0.51 per 1,000.

inhabitants of the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50:-

No burials were carried out by the Local Authority under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47:-

One case was considered for action under this section, but formal action was not necessary.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:-

Geology:-

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south-eastern sector of the County of Hereford and it can be regarded as roughly a valley of V-shape running in a north-west to south-east direction, narrowing towards the south-east. The western boundary is formed by a ridge of upper silurian limestone in the Woolhope and Much Marcle Area, whilst the eastern boundary is formed by the Malvern Hills, in Colwall and Eastnor. The geological formation of the Malverns is somewhat complex, but on the Ledbury side upper silurian rocks seem to predominate. The floor of the valley is formed by the Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System, here frequently covered by a red heavy soil. Whilst a number of springs occur in the Malverns, the area does not appear to be richly supplied with natural water sources.

Water Supplies:-

The water supplies of the area, are derived from numerous separate sources; there are public wells and spouts, private wells, small privately owned piped schemes and mains of Local Authorities. The only supplies in the ownership of the Council are public wells and spouts.

With so many separate sources of water supply, it is difficult to exert a very efficient control of the quality of the water consumed by the inhabitants. This shows considerable variation from water of excellent potable quality in the mains of Local Authorities to water of poor quality found in some of the shallow wells. Nevertheless, 57 samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford for bacteriological examination, and one water sample was sent for examination by chemical methods.

The water mains of the Malvern Urban District Council, supply part of the parish of Colwall, whilst those of the Ledbury Urban District, supply portions of the Parishes of Eastnor and Ledbury Rural. These supplies form the only chlorinated supplies within the area. Two small privately owned piped supplies are also available in the Colwall parish. Altogether in this parish 455 dwellings are supplied from mains by means of separate

services. There are no standpipe supplies.

There are other small piped schemes in operation at Eastnor (91 dwellings) Much Marcle (22 dwellings) and Tarrington (26 dwellings). It would appear that about 2,500 inhabitants are connected to piped supplies. 28 dwellings are supplied from the mains of the Ledbury U.D.C. in Ledbury Rural Parish and 4 at Eastnor.

No new sources of public water supply were developed within the area during the year, and no extensions of public water mains were made.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

The Parish of Colwall is provided with a modern system of public sewers to which most of the dwellings are connected. A small sewage disposal works is provided, this is of an old type but functions fairly satisfactorily, the possibility of renovation of these works is a matter which is engaging the attention of the Council and expert advice is being obtained. In addition to the system at Colwall, there is a short length of public sewer in the Parish of Bosbury, taking the sewage of a small number of dwellings. A new private sewer of 500 yards in length and 6" in diameter was constructed in Colwall and connected in the public sewers. 36 new drains were provided, and 14 existing drains were found to be defective and repaired. No alterations were made to works of sewage disposal.

The Sanitary Inspector made 63 drain tests in the course of his duties.

Rivers and Streams:-

The chief rivers flowing through the district are the Leadon, the Frome and the Cradley Brook, all are quite small. The Leadon, the largest stream of the area is a tributary of the river Severn.

The condition of these streams was satisfactory, apart from the River Leadon as it passes through the vicinity of Ledbury, where there is some evidence of pollution. The year was a difficult one for small rivers as

the flow was very much reduced by the long dry summer weather.

Closet Accommodation:-

It is estimated that about one third of all the dwelling houses are provided with water closets, whilst the remainder continue to use earth closets. These water closets are mostly in the parish of Colwall as this parish has an adequate piped water scheme.

Every opportunity is taken to secure a conversion from the conservancy systems where possible and during the year one privy was converted to pail closet and one converted to water closet, whilst eleven pail closets were converted to water closets. Conversions therefore resulted in the provision of 12 water closets and one pail closet. In addition twenty seven other water closets were provided.

Public Cleansing:-

A system of weekly domestic refuse collection is in operation in the parish of Colwall, the collection being carried out under contract by a motor vehicle and disposal is made by tipping. The parish tip is small, conveniently situated and well maintained. The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse or the cleansing and emptying of cesspools and privies.

There is no refuse collection in the other parishes of the District. The Council does not carry out Street Cleaning.

There are no Public Wash Houses or baths situated within the District.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:-

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) regulations, 1935.

Inspections:-

Animals	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cowsheds and Dairies...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	78
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	63
Filthy and Verminous Premises..	...	...	...	...	...	4
Factories (without mechanical power)...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Food Poisoning.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fruit and Hop-pickers Quarters.	...	...	...	...	...	129
Hotel Kitchens and Restaurants.	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rats and Mice Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	...	...	...	...	4
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	144
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	2
Housing(Consolidated Regulations, 1935)	...	...	...	...	...	52
Housing(Other)...	...	...	...	...	...	194

Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	25
Statutory re housing...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Ditches Cleared.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains and Gullies Cleared	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drains Repaired	....	...	...	...	...	14
Drains Reconstructed...	...	...	...	...	...	14
New Drains Provided	...	...	...	...	...	36
Defective Floors Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	22
Defective Eaves and Gutters Repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Defective Brickwork Repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Defective Coppers Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	9
Disinfections after Infectious Disease.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective Windows Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective Chimneys Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	20
Dampness of Walls and Floors Remedied..	...	...	...	...	...	16
Closets Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Cowsheds and Dairies Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds and Dairies Improved..	...	...	...	...	...	12
Filthy and Verminous Premises Cleansed.	...	...	...	...	...	4
New Gullies Provided...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Gully Covers Provided..	...	...	...	...	...	150
Inspection Chambers Repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Inspection Chambers Provided...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Old Drains Sealed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Paving Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
Privies Converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	11

Privies Converted to Water Closets	...	...	1
Raom Water Pipes Provided or Repaired...	...	...	19
New Sinks Provided	...	...	68
Soil Pipes Repaired	...	...	22
Sanitary Fittings Provided	...	...	86
Wells Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	21
Water Supplies Provided	...	...	7
MISCELLANEOUS DEFECTS REMEDIED.	...	...	112

Swimming Bath and Pools Open to the Public:-

There were two swimming pools open to the public within the District during the year. The swimming pool owned by the Ledbury Urban District Council is just within the boundary, it is a small pool of an old pattern and its use is continued because of lack of better provision.

The other pool is privately owned and is of the modern type equipped with circulating and filtration apparatus. Two samples of water were submitted for examination and complied with the usual standards for these waters.

There is one private swimming bath not open to the public in the District, and a privately owned pool, at one time open to the public, remained out of use throughout the year.

Hop and Fruit-pickers Quarters:-

As the Cultivation of hops is a most important agricultural activity of the area, it is customary for a large number of hop-pickers to move into the area at the beginning of September.

During the 1949 season, it is estimated that over 6,000 pickers and their dependents were lodged in accommodation provided by the growers. In addition a significant number of pickers provide their own lodging by means of caravan or tent.

Lodgings are provided by growers on 78 different premises. These lodgings show considerable variation in size and nature. Some are formed from the temporary use and adaptation of farm buildings normally used for other purposes, but the trend at the present time is for special buildings to be erected for lodgings.

The standard of accommodation provided showed some improvement on that of the previous year. In my experience extended over twelve years, I find that each year some improvement takes place in this accommodation. This problem may cease, in future, as there seems to be a tendency for machine stripping to become more general.

Camping Sites:-

No licences for camping sites were granted by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, camping within the area is so limited that it presents no major public health problems.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs:-

No dwelling house within the District was found to be infested with bed-bugs and no action was required by the Department.

Factories Act, 1937:-

At the end of the year, there were seven factories without mechanical power and sixteen with mechanical power registered with the Local Authority.

During the year, the former were inspected on 12 occasions, and the latter on 8 occasions.

Five defects were found and four of these were remedied by the close of the year.

There are no outworkers registered with the local authority at the present time. This class of employment appears to have little appeal under present conditions in this particular area.

Factory Form (572) Revised.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1949, for the Rural District of Ledbury in the County of Herefordshire.

Part 1. of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,and 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority.	6	12	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1. in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	16	8	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	4	2	-	-
TOTAL.	26	22	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:-

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	To. H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	No. of cases prosec. inst.	
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Insufficient.	2	1	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the act.	2	2	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	5	4	-	-	-	-

SECTION D. - HOUSING:-New Dwellings:-

The Council's first post-war programme of new dwellings, embracing twelve dwellings in the parish of Colwall was completed before the end of the year. Progress continued slowly with some acceleration as the year passed.

However, the building of Council houses continued at Woolhope (6 dwellings) Mathon (6 dwellings) and Bosbury (8 dwellings,) but none of the houses were complete at the end of the year.

Apart from houses completed for the Council, private persons completed the erection of 14 dwellings. Private enterprise succeeded in completing 14 dwellings whilst five more were in course of erection but incomplete at the end of the year.

The following table gives the location of these according to parish:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Completed.</u>	<u>Incomplete.</u>
Ashperton.	1	-
Coddington.	2	-
Colwall.	2	2
Little Marcle.	-	1
Mathon.	1	-
Much Marcle.	5	1
Tarrington.	2	-
Wellington Heath.	1	1

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:-

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	149
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	197
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	37
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose.	52
		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	7
		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation.	22

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.

25

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

1. Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Nil.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.

Nil.

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.

(i) By Owners.

Nil.

(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners.

Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV. - OVERCROWDING:-

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.

61

(b) Number of families dwelling therein.

80

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein.

228

Number of cases of overcrowding reported during year.

3

(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year.

3

(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases.

11

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1949:-

Section 2. The number of demolition orders squashed as a result of the erection of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation. Nil.

Section 4. (a) The number of new dwellings provided by the Construction with the aid of money advanced by Local Authority. Nil.

(b) The number of new dwellings provided by the conversion of existing buildings with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. Nil.

Section 15. (a) The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses or other buildings. 4

Section 20. The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings. Nil.

The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings. Nil.

Rural Housing Survey:-

The systematic survey of rural dwellings of £12 or less rateable value is not yet completed, but an analysis of the number of such houses inspected up to date shows the following result:-

Category 1.	(in all respects satisfactory)	...	16%
" 2.	(houses needing minor repairs)	...	19%
" 3.	(houses requiring structural alteration)	...	41%
" 4.	(houses fit only for demolition)	...	24%

This suggests that about one quarter of the cottages within the area are unfit for human habitation, a finding which is not quite surprising. At the present time, no real progress is likely to be made in dealing with these unfit dwellings as a consequence of the inability of the Council to proceed with the erection of new dwellings on a wider scale.

Overcrowding:-

At the beginning of the year, 61 dwellings were known to be legally, overcrowded, and although three new cases came to the notice of the Department during the year, it was possible to secure abatement of overcrowding in three dwellings.

It would appear that overcrowding presents no problem beyond solution and it will diminish as building improves, but abatement is rather slow.

The cost of erection of new dwellings continues to be high with the result that the rent of new Council Dwellings tends to form a large item of the weekly expenditure of the occupiers upon the maintenance and improvement of dwellings.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:-

Milk:-

At the commencement of the year, there were 151 purveyors of milk registered with the Council under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. However, on 1st October, three new Regulations came into operation, these are the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949; the milk(Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949; and the Milk(Special Designation)(Raw Milk Regulations, 1949). Very briefly, so far as the Council is concerned, the result of these new regulations was the transfer of the responsibility for the supervision of milk production from the Council to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, leaving the supervision of milk distributors with the Local Authority. At the end of the year, 2 distributors were registered with the Council. During the year, 138 inspections of cowsheds and dairies were made and 5 cowsheds were reconstructed and 12 premises were improved.

There are no plants for the pasteurisation of milk situated within the District but one supplementary licence for the sale of Pasteurised Milk was issued by the Council. There are no factories for the manufacture or processing of milk within the area.

One sample of milk taken from the supply to a school, was found to contain the organism known as Staphylococcus Aureus - (coagulase positive).

Whilst no disease appeared to have been caused by the consumption of this milk, some slight alteration in taste and appearance had been noticed. This organism is sometimes capable of causing disease in man. As the dairy was in another District the Medical Officer of Health was informed. The findings were confirmed and it was found that the milk was contaminated by a person handling it. All necessary action was taken and the milk was subsequently found to be free from the organism.

Ice-Cream:-

The sale of this particular foodstuff continued to be carried on during the year, and four premises were registered with the Local Authority for

the storage and sale of Ice-Cream, and one person was registered as a manufacturer. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with any of these premises; five inspections were made.

Water Cress:-

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with this food. The sale of water cress would appear to be small as it grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the area.

Shell Fish:-

The sale of shell fish within the District is very small and no action was required during the year.

Meat and Other Foods:-

There are no slaughter houses in use within the District, all slaughtering for meat for human consumption is now carried out at the Central Abattoir in Hereford. The necessity for inspection of slaughter did not arise.

A certain amount of the Sanitary Inspectors time is devoted to the inspection of food exposed for sale etc., and in the course of this work the following food was found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption.

24 Barrels Apricot Pulp	...	Foreign Matter mixed with Pulp.
3½ lbs. Bacon	...	Deteriorated Condition.
10 Tins of Milk	...	Tins Blown.
2 Tins of Vegetables	...	Tins Blown.
1¾ Lbs. of Boiled Sweets	...	Broken Glass Mixed with Sweets.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Once again, I take this opportunity of emphasising the importance of prompt notification of suspected food poisoning to the Department. Where delayed notification occurs, the chance of a satisfactory investigation is remote as the patients recover and the suspected food is destroyed before the investigation can take place.

Situated within the area are a jam factory, a fruit and vegetable canning factory, two soft drink factories and a factory for the manufacture of cider and perry.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-
Number Inspected.	-	-	-	-	-
All diseases except tubercu- losis, whole carceases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number insp- ected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only, whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected infected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low as 108 notifications of disease were received. This shows an increase of 37 notifications on comparison with the previous year. This suggests that the incidence of notifiable disease remains similar to the low incidence experienced before 1940. It must be remembered that measles, and whooping cough were not compulsorily notifiable before 1940.

Whooping Cough:-

The incidence of this disease was very low, as only 13 cases were notified, 12 of these being in the first quarter. This is not unexpected as during 1948 there were 50 notifications, a figure identical with that for the year 1947. This is a low incidence and the disease was mild. The age distribution of the cases showed that all cases occurred in children aged under 10 years of age.

Measles:-

89 notifications of measles were received, confined chiefly to the first and second quarters. This was the most prevalent notifiable disease but was mild in nature.

Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis:-

The District was very fortunate, as only three cases of this disease were notified and these were not fatal.

Scarlet Fever:-

Only two notifications were received of sporadic cases, occurring in the first and fourth quarters. This disease appears to be relatively mild at the present time.

On the following page is given a table showing the incidence of infectious disease in each sex according to quarter (confirmed civilian cases only).

Confirmed Civilian Cases for Each Quarter According to Sex.

Disease.	1st Qtr.		2nd Qtr.		3rd Qtr.		4th Qtr.		For the Year	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles.	13	12	26	33	2	3	-	-	41	48
Whooping Cough.	7	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	6
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	1
All Disease.	20	17	26	33	2	6	4	1	51	57

No notifications of pneumonia were received, the District was also free from diphtheria, cerebro-spinal fever and enteric fevers.

Analysis of total notified cases according to age.

Disease.	Under										Total
	1.	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	35+	65+	N.K.	
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Polio- myelitis.	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Measles.	3	15	17	36	10	4	2	-	-	2	89
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Whooping Cough.	1	1	3	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	13
Totals.	4	16	21	43	15	4	2	-	-	4	108

The efficiency of notification appears to be very satisfactory, and my thanks are due to the medical practitioners of the area for their willing co-operation.

When the Health Service Act, 1946 came into force, the Council ceased to be concerned with the provision of hospital treatment for persons suffering from infectious disease. This has relieved the Council of the cost of provision of such treatment, but it does seem that cases of infectious disease are admitted and discharged from hospital at times without the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health of the Area.

This would seem to impair control over infectious disease, as return cases are not unknown. Experience will, no doubt improve this administrative detail.

Tuberculosis:-

At the beginning of the year, there were 62 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 48 pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary cases. During the year 10 cases were added, 8 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary, of these, 5 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary were new cases. 8 cases were removed from the register during the year, 6 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. At the end of the year therefore 64 cases remained on the register, 50 pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary cases.

New Cases and Mortality During Year, 1949.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
65+	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals.	1	4	1	-	-	2	-	-

On comparison with the previous year, the register shows an increase of 2 pulmonary cases. There were 2 deaths attributed to tuberculosis giving a death rate of 0.22 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

